WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Increase in FDI in Mining and Minerals

98. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that FDI in mining and minerals have been increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent Government and private sector will be benefited for attracting investment by raising FDI limit in mining and mineral sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) As per the extant policy Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100% is allowed under the automatic route in Mining sector covering exploration and mining of diamonds & precious stones; gold, silver and minerals. This is subject to Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957.

The FDI policy, permitted FDI up to 74% in Atomic minerals in the policy on mining of beach sand minerals notified *vide* Government of India Resolution dated 6-10-1998.

In the recent review of the FDI policy, Government has approved FDI up to 100% with prior approval of the Government in Titanium bearing minerals & ores and its value addition subject to the sectoral regulations and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957. FDI for separation of titanium bearing minerals & ores will be subject to the following additional conditions:

(i) value addition facilities are set up within India along with transfer of technology;

(ii) disposal of tailings during the mineral separation shall be carried out in accordance with regulations framed by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

No FDI is permitted in mining of other atomic minerals.

(c) FDI is a means to supplement domestic investment for achieving a higher level of economic development and providing opportunities for technological upgradation, as well as access to global managerial skills and practices. With forward and backward linkages and access to international quality goods and services, FDI brings in capital and also provides access to modern technology and best practices.

Ban on Import of Palmolive

99. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received to ban the import of Palm oil through all South Indian ports, in view of the crash in prices of coconut and coconut oil;